

INFORMAL COMMUNICATION - DO NOT ENTER

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Inventor: Sorensen et al.

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Examiner: Janice Mooneyham

Art Unit: 3629

Claims 68-91 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Office Action states that it is not clear what is claimed by the feature of: "providing at least one of the contractual rights from at least one of the contributors or from at least one of the parties specified by the at least one contributor to at least one other party". The Office Action states that this feature is being interpreted to be a sublicense. The proposed amendment for Claim 77 clarifies this indefiniteness.

Claims 68-91 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being obvious over Powell (US 2004/00220881) in view of Erbisich, F.H., and Maredia, K.M., *Intellectual Property Rights in Agricultural Biotechnology*, published by CAB International in 1998. The Erbisich publication is applied to teach licensing, and specifically, sublicensing of intellectual property (see Erbisich, page 34, third paragraph).

77. (Currently amended) A computerized method

wherein idea contributions are accumulated for prospectively patentable inventions in a computer database, and

wherein contractual income rights are provided to contributors of the idea contributions or to parties specified by the contributors, in exchange for property rights to prospectively patentable inventions derived at least in part from the accumulated idea contributions, or in exchange for contractual obligations by the contributors to provide the property rights, wherein the contractual income rights are to a portion of income associated with the property rights, the method comprising:

providing at least one of the contractual income rights from at least one of the contributors or from at least one of the parties specified by the at least one contributor to at least one other party.

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